

MOVING FORWARD



Matt Binter | Collegian

Wide receiver **Brodrick Smith** (left) leads the K-State football team onto the field last weekend at Arrowhead Stadium. Smith and the Wildcats will take on Central Florida tomorrow in search of a 4-0 start to the season.

Wildcats set to battle Knights on Fort Riley Day

Ashley Dunkak
sports editor

As K-State prepares to take on the University of Central Florida at Bill Snyder Family Stadium, the players know it might be one of the best teams they have played to this point.

"They have speed," said senior quarterback Carson Coffman. "They blitz more than the teams that we've played in the past do, so this week's going to require a lot of film study to see some of those looks."

While it's nice to be 3-0 on the season, the Wildcats must keep at bay the sense of complacency that often lulls teams to defeat when they slack off during a winning streak. 4-0 would be better than the alternative of losing, head coach Bill Snyder said, but the main goal is to improve every week.

"This week, (Snyder) also mentioned it's not as much about UCF as it is about us," Coffman said. "We really haven't put together a complete game, I don't think, where we just really dominated the whole way throughout or (did not make) some big mistakes during the game."

Sophomore linebacker Blake Slaughter said he feels the defense played its best game of the season to this point against UCLA and that it hasn't played as well since.

Defensive coordinator Chris Cosh wasn't too pleased with the performance against Iowa State, so the unit has much to improve on, Slaughter said.

"Holding them to 13 points", that's good, but watching the film tells a different story," Slaughter said. "Some of the things that

One of the points of emphasis for the K-State defense will be UCF freshman quarterback Jeff Godfrey.

"He's fun to watch," Snyder said. "He's fun to watch on tape; he's not going to be fun to watch on Saturday. He really, he moves around so well, he throws the ball well, and I appreciate his poise."

have, from what I've seen, seems to have a great deal of poise in how he handles things," Snyder said.

With UCF having a quarterback who can make plays to move his team down the field, the Wildcats will have to be much stingier about giving up yards than they have been recently. The Knights have gotten points all 10 times they have gotten to the red zone this season.

"They play hard, they play fast, they're tough youngsters, they're going to play to the whistle every snap, and they've got good depth to do it," Snyder said. "They just continually rotate guys in and out. Their mantra is just, 'Get it into the fourth quarter and be in better condition than your opponent in the fourth quarter,' which they've managed to do quite well so far."

This game will test the Wildcats and how they respond to winning.

"The lesson to be learned here is: how will our football team collectively respond to a certain degree of success," Snyder said. "And that'll be important ... You have to learn to build on a certain degree of success and not just accept the fact that it took place."

"ISU scored 20 points, but seven came on the interception return for touchdown and therefore were not the responsibility of the defense."

K-STATE VS. CENTRAL FLORIDA

When: Tomorrow, 11:40 a.m.
Where: Snyder Family Stadium
Television: Fox Sports Net
Radio: K-State Sports Network
Series: First Meeting

jumped out on the film were just not controlling the line of scrimmage, not playing off of blocks well, some of those things. It doesn't matter who you play; it's going to get you beat eventually. You can try and patch it and hold it up, but those are glaring errors that we need to get fixed."

Snyder said Godfrey makes positive decisions, avoiding bad balls or interceptions. He's a threat to bring out the ball and scramble and run with it. UCF has quarterback packages in its offense that take advantage of those abilities.

"He's fast, he's fluid, and he's pretty intelligent and seems to

Fullback shares thoughts on K-State running game



Matt Binter | Collegian

Fullback **Braden Wilson** eludes the grasp of a Missouri State defender earlier this season. Wilson played running back while at Smith Center High School.

Ashley Dunkak
sports editor

Sophomore fullback Braden Wilson, whose old-school blocking has paved the way for the second-leading rusher in the country, Daniel Thomas, took a few minutes to answer questions about his roots in the game and what he sees in the running game and offensive line.

Q: When did you start playing football?

A: Where I'm from — Smith Center — we don't have Little League, so everybody starts in seventh grade. The group I played with, we were always pretty successful in the games, so we decided that was for us.

Q: How much more comfortable are you in your second year here?

A: It's not even close. I have so much more confidence on the field. Last year I came in, kind of the wide-eyed freshman, kind of came to games with the jitters and everything, butterflies in my stomach.

Q: Was it a hard transition to go from running back in high school to fullback now, where you don't get as many touches?

A: That wasn't a problem for me because my first three years in high school I was a role player. We ran the wishbone. I was a running back and I was basically another lead blocker for the most part. I still got a lot of carries, though.

Q: What happened on your 23-yard reception against Missouri State where you flattened that defender?

A: I don't know what to say. I was just doing what I was supposed to do — catching it in the flat, I was open, so someone came in to trip me up, I was a little off-balance, leaning forward into him anyways ... I wasn't going to juke him or anything, so I just lowered my shoulder.

Q: What do you think about Daniel Thomas?

A: He's got everything. He's a great player; he can do everything. Every aspect a player would need in the game, he's got it.

Q: How do you feel about the running game?

A: I do feel like we've done pretty well in the running game, but at the same time I feel like we could do better, so we're going to keep improving and keep doing what we've been doing.

Q: What does Wade Weibert bring to the offensive line?

A: Wade's a great leader. He's a hard worker, strong guy. He leads by example and is a vocal leader too.

Q: What is the identity of the O-line?

A: They're never going to give up; they're never going to stop. They're relentless.

Q: How have you seen the line-men improve?

A: They haven't really made any mistakes all year, staying pretty clean from penalties, doing all the little things right, all the fundamentals — just running smooth.

BY THE NUMBERS

Numbers to consider when K-State takes on Central Florida tomorrow

35-0

-Fourth-quarter scoring of UCF versus opponents

The Knights have dominated in the final period in their first three games this season. It's the first time since 1996 the team has done so, and the statistic speaks to the conditioning, endurance and finishing ability of the team.

0-3

-UCF's record against Big 12 teams

A Conference USA team, the Knights don't play teams from our Midwestern league very often. Hidden in that statistic is the fact the Knights played some of the most storied programs in the Big 12 in those three games: Nebraska in 1997, Texas in 2007 and Texas again in 2009. Head coach Bill Snyder said this team might be the toughest K-State has faced this season, so they can't take anything for granted.

106

-Points scored by K-State this season

If you do the math, that means the Wildcats are averaging right over 35 points per game. Against a tough defense like UCF, the Wildcats will probably need to mix up the run and the pass more than they have so far. Someone will figure out how to contain senior running back Daniel Thomas eventually, and quarterback Carson Coffman will have to be solid through the air to compensate.

552

-Yards by Daniel Thomas this season

The running back ranks second in the nation in rushing yardage, and his average is right over 180 yards per game. He's been carrying the ball more than ever, thanks to holes opened up by the offensive line and his ability to get all kinds of yardage on second, third and fourth efforts.

10/10

-Red-zone conversions out of red-zone attempts

UCF is one of nine teams in the country that are perfect on at least 10 trips into the red zone. The trips resulted in nine touchdowns and one field goal. Since the Knights' quarterback is one who can scramble with the best of them, the K-State defense had better be at the top of its game so he does not use his speed to convert and move the team right down the field.

1

-C-USA rank in passing defense, scoring defense, passing efficiency defense and total defense

Nationally, UCF is ranked in the top 20 in all those categories. Fortunately for the Wildcats, the Knights' rushing defense is not as good as the passing one, at least from a numerical standpoint, so Thomas might be able to run wild again after all.

9

-Chunk plays by UCF

"Chunk plays" are plays of 20 yards or more. UCF has nine, and all of them came through the air. K-State's secondary will have to watch for these.

15

-UCF national ranking in total defense

The Knights present arguably the biggest defensive challenge K-State has seen so far this season. Through the first three games, they rank ninth in pass efficiency defense and are allowing less than half of the Wildcats' average rushing yards.

406

-Total offensive yards by UCF quarterback Jeffrey Godfrey in 2010

Godfrey was named the starter last weekend against Buffalo and didn't disappoint. The true freshman threw for 130 yards and ran for 44 more in the Knights' 24-10 win over the Bulls.

-Compiled by Ashley Dunkak



SCOUTING REPORT



WR

WR

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RT

RG

C

LG

LT

QB

RB

CB

DE

DT

DT

DE

CB

LB


LB

LB


SS

FS


JEFFREY GODFREY
QUARTERBACK #2
Godfrey, a true freshman, made his first collegiate start last weekend at Buffalo. He was productive on the ground as well as through the air, as he threw for 130 yards and rushed for 44. So far this season, he's thrown for 302 yards and a touchdown and ran for 104 yards and two scores.



KAMAR AIKEN
WIDE RECEIVER #81
Aiken, a senior, has been a staple of Central Florida's offense for each of the last four seasons. He's amassed 1,574 receiving yards and 15 touchdowns during his career with the Knights. In 2010, he's caught 10 passes for 136 yards. His next reception will be catch No. 100 in his career.



DERRICK HALLMAN
LINEBACKER #38
Hallman, a senior, has been a solid defensive contributor since becoming a regular starter in 2008. He finished each of the last two seasons as a top-five tackler among the Central Florida roster. This year, he's recorded 16 stops, including 2.5 behind the line of scrimmage, and three forced fumbles.



WEAKNESSES

STRENGTHS

Central Florida Knights (2-1 Overall, 0-0 Conference USA)

STRENGTHS

Quarterback: A change of personnel at quarterback proved beneficial for Central Florida last weekend, when head coach George O'Leary elected to start true freshman Jeffrey Godfrey instead of junior Rob Calabrese. Godfrey was efficient in his first collegiate start, when he completed 15 of 24 passes for 130 yards. He also carried the ball 13 times for 44 yards in the Knights' 24-10 victory over Buffalo. K-State struggled against the dual-threat attack of Iowa State signal caller Austen Arnaud last weekend, and will likely see more of the same from Godfrey this weekend. Through Central Florida's first three games, Godfrey has racked up 302 passing yards and 104 rushing yards. He has yet to throw a touchdown pass, but has crossed the goal line twice on the ground.

Wide receiver: While Godfrey may still be in search of his first

scoring strike, he's not short of options at wide receiver. The Knights have three receivers with at least 10 receptions and 100 yards in 2010, including team leader A.J. Guyton. Guyton has hauled in 12 passes for 154 yards and a score this season. Also in the mix is the always reliable Kamar Aiken. Aiken surpassed the 1,500 yard mark earlier this season against North Carolina State. He's caught 10 passes for 136 yards this season. He hasn't reached the end zone yet in 2010, but has proven to be a scoring threat throughout his career, as he has 15 total touchdowns during his three-plus seasons at Central Florida.

Tight end: The starting tight end job hasn't been in question for quite some time at Central Florida, as that role has been firmly in the hands of junior Adam Nissley since 2008. Nissley, a junior and converted offensive lineman, will make his 29th consecutive start this weekend against

the Wildcats. During that span, Nissley has caught 13 passes for 201 yards, including two receptions for 30 yards in 2010. The Knights' quarterbacks haven't gone to Nissley often during his career, but look for him to play a significant role as a run blocker, as Godfrey will likely look to run the ball several times out of the backfield.

Offensive line: Experienced offensive front fives have been the trend of K-State's opponents in 2010, and Central Florida's starting unit is no exception. The Knights feature three offensive linemen who have started at least 20 games during their careers. That list includes left guard Cliff McCray, right guard Nick Pischel and right tackle Jah Reid. Reid, a senior, will make his 23rd straight start at that position this weekend. Central Florida's least experienced lineman, sophomore center Jordan Rae, has started each of the Knights' first three games this season. K-State's

run defense was spotty last weekend against the Cyclones, allowing 171 yards on the ground. The Wildcats will want to buckle down against Central Florida's line to avoid more of the same.

Defensive line: Perhaps the best testament to the Knights' defensive front four is junior defensive end Darius Nall. Nall ranks fourth on the team with 15 total tackles, including four behind the line of scrimmage. He also leads the team with three sacks, but isn't currently listed as a starter on the team's depth chart. Nall is one of four defensive linemen who rank in the team's top 10 in tackles. Central Florida has given up an average of 128.7 yards on the ground through its first three games. That's significantly less than Wildcat running back Daniel Thomas' 182 yard average. Expect a battle between K-State's offensive line and Central Florida's defensive line, as this game could very likely be won or lost in the trenches.

Linebacker: Senior Derrick Hallman leads a Central Florida linebacking corps that possesses plenty of talent and starting experience. Hallman has been a mainstay in the defense since the 2008 season. He's ranked in the team's top-five in tackles in each of the last two seasons, and currently ranks third with 16 stops in 2010. In his Knight career, he's recorded 209 total stops — 25.5 for negative yardage — four sacks and three interceptions. Fellow senior Lawrence Young currently leads the team with 18 tackles and a sack. The third starter, junior Josh Linam, has recorded 15 stops and a sack this season.

Secondary: There may not be any staggering individual numbers among Central Florida's cornerbacks or safeties, but the Knights' defensive backs have opened the season with a bang, as the team currently ranks 12th nationally in pass defense and ninth in pass efficiency defense. Sophomore free safety Kemal

Ishmael is the secondary's leading tackler with 17 stops, while senior strong safety Reggie Weams has recorded the unit's only interception.

WEAKNESSES

Running back: While Godfrey presents a dangerous rushing threat out of the Central Florida backfield, it doesn't appear he'll get much help from his running backs this weekend. Sophomore Jonathan Davis got off to a promising start when he ran for 107 yards and a score in the Knights' season opener against South Dakota, but he has since been a non-factor. In the team's last two games, he's carried the ball 24 times for just 42 yards and has failed to reach the end zone. Central Florida's lack of production at running back could work in K-State's favor, as the Wildcats could place more emphasis on containing Godfrey.

-Compiled by Justin Nutter

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Wildcats need to be ready for anything against Knights



Tyler Scott

A 3-0 start to the season is a good sign. Starting the season 4-0 would be even better for the Wildcats.

K-State's gut-wrenching victory over the Cyclones should've lit a match in the team's head. The Wildcats stuck to their usual game plan by giving the ball to Daniel Thomas. He ended up with 181 yards, while Carson Coffman threw for 104 yards and an interception. I don't know how he threw the interception because it was thrown straight to a linebacker who ran it in for six. He was able to run an easy touchdown in on a 10-yard gain. Besides the interception, the Cyclones defense was pathetic throughout and K-State did miss out on a few opportunities for points.

Coffman will be unpredictable the whole season. I'm not sure if we will ever know how he's going to do in every game this season since he has shown signs of stardom and failure.

This game against Central Florida will be bigger than some people think it is. Last year, the Knights went 8-4 with a victory over conference opponent Houston and a close loss to East Carolina. A powerhouse in the Conference USA, they boast a 356-average yard-per-game total, evening the play calling both through the air and on the ground.

K-State will have to be ready for everything. The Knights also use a plethora

of players to get production during games. Freshman Jeffrey Godfrey and junior Rob Calabrese share the snaps at quarterback, and Central Florida also uses four different guys to run the ball. Godfrey has thrown for 302 yards, while Calabrese has aired it out for 282 yards. Central Florida rides a 2-1 record so far this year, having lost to North Carolina State on Sept. 11.

K-State will have to be ready for anything on defense if it wants to stop them at all. The secondary will have to show up, and the run defense will have to be stronger than it has shown so far this year.

Another heavy load for Thomas will be expected, but sooner or later it is going to get stopped. Snyder has to find a way to open up the passing game more because if it doesn't work out this game, the Nebraska game, set for Oct. 7 on ESPN, is going to look ugly.


This team can't stay one-dimensional the whole year. It's not going to work one way and Snyder should know that. Again, this is a huge game for the Wildcats. Central Florida may not be Nebraska- or Texas-caliber, but they can play and if K-State lets up they will wish they were playing Missouri State again.

The Knights will try to pull out all the stops in holding Thomas to a low amount of yardage. They are only allowing 261 yards per game this year. I think this game will be up and down both ways and I don't expect it to be a blowout either way. If Thomas is successful, and the Wildcats open up the playbook more, they should pull out a close but comfortable victory.


Tyler Scott is a senior in print journalism. Please send comments to sports@spub.ksu.edu.

MATCHING UP





OFFENSE




Senior running back Daniel Thomas continued to wow spectators across the nation with 181 yards and two touchdowns last weekend against Iowa State. Fellow senior Carson Coffman added another element to the Wildcats' run game, carrying the ball 10 times for 37 yards and a score. But for the most part, the Wildcats continued their "all Thomas, all the time" mentality, as the junior college transfer recorded a career-high 34 carries in the game.

Coffman only threw 12 passes against Iowa State and completed just six of them. He also threw his first interception of the season, which went for a Cyclone touchdown. It's unlikely that Coffman will air it out much more this week, as Central Florida's pass defense ranks among the country's best.

The Knights received an offensive boost when freshman quarterback Jeffrey Godfrey made his first collegiate start last weekend against Buffalo. Godfrey racked up 174 total yards in Central Florida's 24-10 win, and he'll look to keep that success rolling this weekend in Manhattan. But Godfrey doesn't have the luxury of an established running back, as starter Jonathan Davis has put up just 149 yards in the team's first three games.

Both offenses figure to be fairly one-dimensional — Central Florida through the air and K-State on the ground — but based on Thomas' season stats, give K-State's offensive unit a slight advantage.

DEFENSE




Once again, the Wildcats' defense played with a "bend, but don't break" mentality against Iowa State, just as it did in the season opener against UCLA. While the unit made enough plays to win the game, head coach Bill Snyder will likely want to see more consistency this weekend against the Knights.


K-State's rushing defense was spotty at best against Iowa State, as the Cyclone backfield combined for 171 yards on the ground. Central Florida will feature a dual-threat quarterback in Godfrey, just as Iowa State did in Austen Arnaud, so the Wildcats should at least have an idea of what they'll face tomorrow. But, fortunately for K-State, Godfrey seems to be the Knights' only credible rushing threat.

Statistically, it looks as though Central Florida will field the best defense the Wildcats have faced this season, so the Knights get the edge in this department. Their defensive unit ranks 12th nationally in pass defense. The Knights rank 45th in run defense, but that number may be somewhat deceptive. They are giving up an average of 128.7 rushing yards per game, which is less than half of the 260.3 yards K-State has averaged through its first three games.

As the rankings indicate, Central Florida's secondary has been as good as anyone this season. That will likely mean another huge workload for Thomas and K-State's ground attack this weekend.



SPECIAL TEAMS



PREDICTION

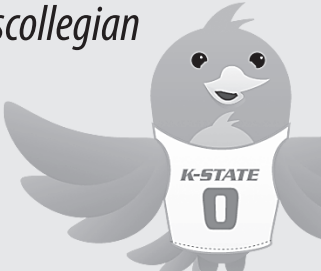
credible rushing threat.

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MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Powell awarded scholarship after strong start to season

Justin Nutter
gameday editor

As the old saying goes, “good things come to those who wait.” For William Powell, a running back on the Wildcat football team, the last year has been a bit of an emotional roller coaster. The senior walk-on, who wasn’t even recruited to K-State, lost his mother to a battle with cancer last spring. But he continued to play football — a sport he said his mother loved dearly — and the efforts started to pay off in a big way in 2010.

Prior to the team’s season opener against UCLA, Powell — primarily a member of the special teams unit in 2009 — was named the primary backup to fellow senior Daniel Thomas. The Navarro College product hasn’t looked back ever since. In the Wildcats’ first three games, he’s carried 12 times for 134 yards — a staggering average of 11.2 yards per carry — and two touchdowns. Last weekend against Iowa State, he averaged 29 yards on four kickoff returns en route to Big 12 Special Teams Player of the Week honors. He currently leads the conference with an average of 31.7 yards per return.

“(Powell) gives you what you see,” head coach Bill Snyder said. “He is a good running back. He is a good kickoff return guy and a patient young guy, which helps him be good at the two things that he is involved with right now. He is on some other special teams units in which he plays well and aggressively. He is a marvelous young person.”

Snyder had much more than nice words for Powell last week, as the 19th-year head coach elected to award the Texas native a scholarship — the first he’s ever received at the collegiate level. As Snyder predicted, Powell showed nothing but gratitude when he was informed of the decision.

“He came in and thanked me, and I appreciated that because that is the kind of guy that he is,” Snyder said. “Anytime I do something for him, he will respond in the right way. He did, and he was pleased about it and was very grateful.”

In some ways, receiving a scholarship — one of Powell’s goals when he arrived in Manhattan — has been overwhelming. When asked at Tuesday’s press conference how his late mother would feel about his recent accomplishments, he became emo-



William Powell returns a kick last weekend at Arrowhead Stadium. Less than a week after being named Big 12 Special Teams Player of the Week, Powell was awarded a scholarship by head coach Bill Snyder.

Matt Binter | Collegian

tional and briefly left the room in tears, but returned to offer some insight.

“(The scholarship) would have meant a lot to her,” he said. “She was big on my success. It probably would have meant the world to her.”

Snyder both alluded to the senior’s versatility and willingness to take on any task, which have been made apparent by his 2010 statistics. As he’s done his whole career, he’ll take that hardworking mentality to the gridiron again this weekend in search of a win over Central Florida.

But, for the first time in his life, he’ll do so as a scholarship athlete.

AN INSIDE LOOK AT WILLIAM POWELL

Year: Senior	High School: Duncanville
Position: Running Back	Former School: Navarro CC
Height: 5’9”	2010 Carries: 12
Weight: 207 pounds	2010 Yards: 134
Hometown: Duncanville, Texas	2010 Touchdowns: 2

BIG 12 CONFERENCE GAMES THIS WEEK

Central Florida at K-State, 11:40 a.m.	Northern Iowa at Iowa State, 6 p.m.
Miami (Ohio) at Missouri, 1 p.m.	South Dakota State at No. 6 Nebraska, 6 p.m.
UCLA at No. 7 Texas, 2:30 p.m.	New Mexico State at Kansas, 6 p.m.
No. 8 Oklahoma at Cincinnati, 5 p.m.	Baylor at Rice, 7 p.m.

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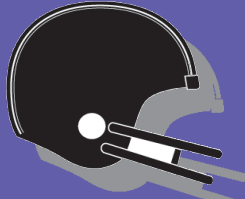
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